AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-3 and 18-20 are being amended. Claims 15-17 and 32-24 are being canceled. Claims 4-14, 21-31, 35-38 and 39-42 were previously canceled). All pending claims are reproduced below, including those that remain unchanged.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for extending an existing object oriented programming language, comprising the steps of:

selecting a program source file including a workflow definition created using ~~an existing object oriented programming language~~ a workflow language, wherein the program source file includes a source code and classes therein and a workflow definition created using ~~the existing object oriented programming language~~ the workflow language that is specified in the form of annotations to the source code and the classes, and wherein the workflow language extends; ~~extending the existing object oriented programming language by adding at least one language construct defined by a second language so that~~ the source code ~~is extended~~ with a plurality of workflow constructs ~~defined by the second language~~, including ~~adding~~ an action construct representing an activity that allows a first software component ~~written using the extended existing programming language~~ to call an operation on a second software component ~~written using the existing object oriented programming language~~; and

using a workflow program according to the workflow definition, including processing, using a computer including a processing device operating thereon, the action construct to allow the first software component ~~written using the extended existing programming language~~ to call the operation on the second software component ~~written using the existing object oriented programming language~~.

2. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein:

the plurality of workflow definition constructs are provided as ~~the second language is a~~ markup language commands that are then used as annotations to the source code and the classes.

3. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein:

the plurality of workflow definition constructs are provided as ~~said second language is~~ XML commands that are then used as annotations to the source code and the classes.

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4.-17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) A computer system capable of extending an existing programming language, comprising:

a computer including a processing device operating thereon;

a program source file stored on the computer, wherein the program source file includes a workflow definition created using ~~an existing object oriented programming language~~ a workflow language, wherein the program source file includes a source code and classes therein and a workflow definition created using ~~the existing object oriented programming language~~ the workflow language that is specified in the form of annotations to the source code and the classes, and wherein the workflow language extends the source code ~~is extended~~ with a plurality of workflow constructs ~~defined by a second language~~, including an action construct representing an activity that allows a first software component ~~written using the extended existing programming language~~ to call an operation on a second software component ~~written using the existing object oriented programming language~~; and[[,]]

means for using a workflow program according to the workflow definition, including processing, using a computer including a processing device operating thereon, the action construct to allow the first software component ~~written using the extended existing programming language~~ to call the operation on the second software component ~~written using the existing object oriented programming language~~.

19. (Currently Amended) A computer system according to claim 18, wherein:

the plurality of workflow definition constructs are provided as ~~the second language is a~~ markup language commands that are then used as annotations to the source code and the classes.

20. (Currently Amended) A computer system according to claim 18, wherein:

the plurality of workflow definition constructs are provided as ~~said second language is~~ XML commands that are then used as annotations to the source code and the classes.

21.-42. (Canceled)